

9 October 1970

MEMORANDUM:

Despite General Viaux's willingness to act, the best long range solution for stopping Allende still would be the resignation of President Frei and a good part of his cabinet, and the establishment of a military government. If Viaux moves on his own and succeeds (which is a distinct possibility) then we face the unpleasant prospect that Viaux's junta will be an autocratic, nationalistic, military government which may not be particularly pro-U.S. Accordingly, Viaux should still be considered only as an opportunity of last resort.

Obviously, our time is running out. Recent reporting indicates that Viaux is going to make his move this weekend. Before we leap into his arms, perhaps we can use Viaux to push Frei to seek a military solution - the preferable solution.

To do this, we might request an urgent meeting with [redacted] and inform him (without details - of course) that Viaux is planning a coup. [redacted] and that we think Viaux has the horses to pull it off. Using this as a peg, we could then plead that:

a. A Viaux government, though preferable to Allende, would be a tragedy for Chile and the free world.

b. A Viaux coup would only produce a massive bloodbath. It would require the strength of a united military to suppress Viaux and simultaneously restrain the communist reaction.

c. Frei has the responsibility and duty to seize the bull by the horns and act. That is, remove General Schneider. [redacted] assure Frei that if he took this action everything else would fall into place, Viaux probably would not move, and he could intervene on the pretext that the constitution had to be abandoned to prevent a massive bloodbath.